

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Amendments to the claims:

Cancel claims 14 and 15; and

Amend claims 1, 28, 42, 49 and 87.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An identification tag system for an infant or small child, comprising:

a generally rectangular elastomeric identification tag having a long dimension and a short dimension, the tag including a pair of slots therethrough and means for receiving information associated with the infant or small child;

an elongated elastomeric wristband and related fastening means for configuring and retaining said wristband in a small diameter closed loop shape of selected circumferential size wrapped about a wrist or ankle of the infant or small child, wherein said wristband is threaded through said slots; and

wherein said identification tag is mounted onto the exterior of said wristband such that the long dimension of the tag extends generally perpendicular to a long dimension ~~having a size and shape to extend beyond the width~~ of said wristband so as to maximize a readable area of the information-receiving means on the tag ~~while considering~~ and to minimize the degree of curvature of the tag when mounted on the small diameter wrist or ankle of the infant or small child.

2. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 1 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag comprises an information-bearing surface area comprising an outboard presented surface of said tag, when said tag is mounted onto said wristband, and further including information associated with the infant or small child carried on said information-bearing surface area.

3. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 2 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area.

4. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 2 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area in human readable form.

5. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 2 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area in machine readable form.

6. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 5 wherein said information in machine readable form comprises bar code data.

7. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 2 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area in human readable form and machine readable form.

8. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 2 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag further comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) circuit carried by said tag.

9. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 1 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) circuit carried by said tag.

10. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 9 wherein said tag has a multiple ply construction, and further wherein said RFID circuit is embedded within said tag.

11. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 1 wherein said identification tag comprises a relatively stiff and generally planar structure, and wherein said flexible wristband comprises a comparatively comfortable and compliant structure.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 2 wherein a substantial portion of said information-bearing surface area on said identification tag extends laterally from said wristband.

17. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 1 further including a supply of multiple of said identification tag detachably interconnected to each other, and at least one processor station for applying said information to one of said supply of multiple identification tags, said resultant information-bearing tag being separable from said supply for mounting onto said wristband.

18. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 17 wherein said supply of detachably interconnected identification tags is provided in roll form.

19. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 17 wherein said supply of detachably interconnected identification tags is provided in sheet form.

20. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 1 further including a plurality of said identification tag mounted onto the exterior of said flexible wristband.

21. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 20 wherein at least one of said identification tags is color coded.

22. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 1 further including a related group of identification tags each including means for receiving information related to a specific group of infants or small children, and a plurality of flexible wristbands, each of said identification tags being detachably interconnected to each other and separable from each other for respective mounting onto said flexible wristbands.

23. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 22 wherein said group of identification tags includes at least one relatively large tag and at least one comparatively smaller tag.

24. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 1 wherein said identification tag further includes at least one detachable label including means for receiving information associated with the specific wearer or object.

25. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 24 wherein said at least one detachable label comprises a plurality of detachable labels.

26. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 24 wherein said label comprises an adhesive-backed label.

27. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 1 further including a printable form having a first portion and a second portion, said identification tag being formed within said first form portion with said information receiving means comprising an upwardly presented printable region, and said second form portion including a plurality of adhesive-backed labels each including means for receiving information associated with the specific wearer or object.

28. (Currently amended) An identification tag for mounting onto an elongated elastomeric wristband associated with fastening means for configuring and retaining the wristband in a small diameter, closed loop of selected circumferential size wrapped about a wrist or ankle of an infant or small child, said identification tag comprising:

a generally rectangular elastomeric identification tag having a long dimension and a short dimension and having a relatively stiff and generally planar structure, the tag including a pair of slots therethrough and means for receiving information associated with the infant or small child; and

means for mounting said tag onto the exterior of the wristband, wherein said wristband is threaded through said slots such that the long dimension of the tag extends generally perpendicular to a long dimension and said tag having a size and shape to extend beyond the width of the wristband so as to maximize a readable area of the information-receiving means on the tag ~~while considering and to minimize~~ the degree of curvature of the tag when mounted on a the small diameter wrist or ankle of the infant or small child.

29. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 28 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag comprises an information-bearing surface area comprising an outboard presented surface of said tag, when said tag is mounted onto the wristband, and further including information associated with the infant or small child carried on said information-bearing surface area.

30. (Original) The identification tag of claim 29 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area.

31. (Original) The identification tag of claim 29 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area in a selected one or both of human readable form and machine readable form.

32. (Original) The identification tag of claim 31 wherein said information in machine readable form comprises bar code data.

33. (Original) The identification tag of claim 28 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) circuit carried by said tag.

34. (Original) The identification tag of claim 33 wherein said tag has a multiple ply construction, and further wherein said RFID circuit is embedded within said tag.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 29 wherein a substantial portion of said information-bearing surface area on said identification tag extends laterally from the wristband, when said tag is mounted on the wristband.

38. (Withdrawn) The identification tag of claim 28 wherein said identification tag further includes at least one detachable label including means for receiving information associated with the specific wearer or object.

39. (Withdrawn) The identification tag of claim 38 wherein said at least one detachable label comprises a plurality of detachable labels.

40. (Withdrawn) The identification tag of claim 38 wherein said label comprises an adhesive-backed label.

41. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 28 further including a printable form having a first portion and a second portion, said identification tag being formed within said first form portion with said information receiving means comprising an upwardly presented printable region, and said second form portion including a plurality of adhesive-backed labels each including means for receiving information associated with the specific wearer or object.

42. (Currently amended) An identification tag system for an infant or small child, comprising:

a supply of generally rectangular identification tags, each tag having a long dimension and a short dimension, ~~each tag and~~ including a pair of slots therethrough and ~~including~~ means for receiving information associated with the infant or small child; ~~and~~

a supply of elongated elastomeric wristbands and related fastening means for configuring and retaining each of said wristbands in a small diameter closed loop shape of selected circumferential size wrapped about a wrist or ankle of the infant or small child; and

each of said identification tags being mounted onto the exterior of an associated one of said wristbands wherein said associated wristband is threaded through said slots to orient said tag with said long dimension thereof extending generally perpendicular to a long dimension of said associated wristband so as to maximize a readable area of the information-receiving means on the tag and to minimize the degree of curvature of the tag when mounted on the small diameter wrist or ankle of the infant or small child.

43. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein said information-receiving means on each of said identification tags comprises an information-bearing surface area on an outboard presented surface thereof when said tag is mounted onto said associated wristband, and further including information associated with the infant or small child carried by said information-bearing surface area.

44. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 43 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area.

45. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 44 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area in a selected one of human readable form, machine readable form, or both.

46. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 45 wherein said information in machine readable form comprises bar code data.

47. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein said information-receiving means on each of said identification tags comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) circuit.

48. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 47 wherein each of said identification tags has a multiple ply construction, and further wherein said RFID circuit associated therewith is embedded within said identification tag.

49. (Currently amended) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein each of said identification tags comprises a relatively stiff and generally planar structure, and wherein each of said elastomeric ~~flexible~~ wristbands comprises a comparatively comfortable and compliant structure.

50. (Canceled).

51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 43 wherein a substantial portion of said information-bearing surface area on each of said identification tags extends laterally from the associated wristband, when said tag is mounted on the associated wristband.

53. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein said supply of identification tags comprises a plurality of said identification tags detachably interconnected to each other, and further including at least one processor station for applying said information to each of said identification tags, said resultant information-bearing tags each being separable from said plurality of identification tags for mounting onto said associated wristband.

54. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein at least one of said identification tags is color coded.

55. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 53 wherein said plurality of detachably interconnected identification tags is provided in roll form.

56. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 53 wherein said plurality of detachably interconnected identification tags is provided in sheet form.

57. (Previously presented) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein said supply of identification tags comprises a related group of identification tags each including means for receiving information related to a specific group of infants or small children, said related group of said identification tags being detachably interconnected

to each other and separable from each other for respective mounting onto said wristbands.

58. (Original) The identification tag system of claim 57 wherein said related group of identification tags includes at least one relatively large tag and at least one comparatively smaller tag.

59. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 42 wherein each of said identification tags further includes at least one detachable label including means for receiving information associated with the specific wearer or object.

60. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 59 wherein said at least one detachable label comprises a plurality of detachable labels.

61. (Withdrawn) The identification tag system of claim 42 further including a printable form having a first portion and a second portion, said identification tag being formed within said first form portion with said information receiving means comprising an upwardly presented printable region, and said second form portion including a plurality of adhesive-backed labels each including means for receiving information associated with the specific wearer or object.

62. - 86. (Canceled).

87. (Currently amended) An identification tag for mounting onto an elongated elastomeric wristband associated with fastening means for configuring and retaining the wristband in a small diameter closed loop of selected circumferential size wrapped about a wrist or ankle of an infant or small child, said identification tag comprising:

a generally rectangular identification tag having a long dimension and a short dimension and having a relatively stiff and generally planar structure, the tag including a

pair of slots therethrough and means for receiving information associated with the infant or small child; and

means for mounting said tag onto the exterior of the wristband, wherein said wristband is threaded through said slots to orient said tag with said long dimension thereof extending generally perpendicular to a long dimension of said wristband so as to maximize a readable area of the information-receiving means on the tag and to minimize the degree of curvature of the tag when mounted on the small diameter wrist or ankle of the infant or small child.

88. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 87 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag comprises an information-bearing surface area comprising an outboard presented surface of said tag, when said tag is mounted onto the wristband, and further including information associated with the infant or small child carried on said information-bearing surface area.

89. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 88 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area.

90. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 88 wherein said information is printed on said information-bearing surface area in a selected one or both of human readable form and machine readable form.

91. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 90 wherein said information in machine readable form comprises bar code data.

92. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 87 wherein said information-receiving means on said identification tag comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) circuit carried by said tag.

93. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 92 wherein said tag has a multiple ply construction, and further wherein said RFID circuit is embedded within said tag.

94. (Previously presented) The identification tag of claim 88 wherein a substantial portion of said information-bearing surface area on said identification tag extends laterally from the wristband, when said tag is mounted on the wristband.